

PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

The Senate Discusses the Oklahoma Land Question—Also the Nicaraguan Treaty in Secret Session.

The House Discusses Indian Affairs in Committee of the Whole.

FORTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS.

The Senate.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Mr. Fry, from the Committee on Commerce, reported favorably the bill recently introduced by himself for the encouragement of the American merchant marine and to promote postal and commercial relations with foreign countries.

Mr. Manderson, from the Committee on Printing, reported favorably a concurrent resolution providing that the Congressional Record should be an accurate transcript of the actual proceedings and debates of the two houses.

The Oklahoma resolutions of Messrs. Plumb and Vest were placed before the Senate. Mr. Vest withdrew his resolution. In doing so he took occasion to say that there could be no doubt whatever that, as the laws stood, the Oklahoma lands were not at this time subject to settlement by white people. The President, therefore, was unable to do otherwise than as he had done.

After some further discussion of the matter, in which Messrs. Dawes, Harrison and Moxey participated, Mr. Plumb said if prompt action were taken he had no doubt an entirely just and peaceful solution of the difficulty would be arrived at with due regard to the rights of the Indians.

Mr. Plumb's resolution calling on the President for his views of the present status of the Oklahoma land was then agreed to.

Mr. Vest then referred his resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to ascertain and report upon what terms the Creek and Seminole Indians would surrender all their remaining rights to the lands in question. He requested that the resolution be held over till to-morrow, when he would make it more comprehensive. The resolution was laid over accordingly.

The Senate then went into executive session with reference, it is understood, to the Nicaragua treaty.

The House.

On motion of Mr. Landrum, the Senate amendments were concurred in, the House bill authorizing the appointment of a commission to run and mark the boundary line between that portion of Indian Territory and connection with a similar commission to be appointed by the State of Texas.

Mr. Cobb presented the conference report on the Oregon Central Forestry bill. Agreed to. The House recedes from its disagreement to all Senate amendments.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Indian Appropriation bill.

On motion of Mr. Ellis, an amendment was adopted directing the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a list of all approved and pending claims of citizens on account of Indian depredations, and report the same to Congress on the first Monday of next December.

Chase then spoke in support of the increase in the provisions for the Indians of Fort Peck Agency.

Mr. Maginnis attributed the starving condition of the Indians of that agency to the inefficiency of the Indian Department.

Mr. Feigan said it struck him as a curious fact that the Government could always find means of appropriating money to feed a set of lazy vagabond Indians, but could never find means of putting them to work.

Mr. Hewitt, of New York, read a letter he said he had received from Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota, who is now dying on the banks of the Mediterranean, imploring his good offices for the Indians, and asking him to request the President not to be despatched in the selection of a Commissioner of Indian Affairs. No position, says the Bishop, in the gift of the President can bring to his party greater honor or greater fame.

Mr. Cutcheon offered an amendment appropriating \$30,000 for an emergency fund, to be applied in case of necessity for the relief of extraordinary cases of distress among the Indian tribes. Ruled out on a point of order.

On motion of Mansanara the amendment was adopted appropriating \$25,000 for the erection of an Indian Industrial School at Santa Fe.

Mr. Rogers, of Arkansas, moved to amend the provision prohibiting the introduction of ardent spirits into the Indian Territory by throwing out the minimum penalty imposed for violation of the prohibition. Lost.

Mr. Cutcheon offered an amendment providing that any Indian committing against the person or property of another Indian, or other person, any of the following crimes: Murder, manslaughter, rape, assault with intent to kill, arson, burglary and larceny, shall be subject to the laws of such Territory in which such crime is committed, and shall be tried therefor in the same courts and in the same manner and shall be subject to the same penalties as are other persons charged with the commission of such crimes, and permitting Indians to prosecute in any court any civil action at law equity.

Adopted.

On motion of Mr. Throckmorton an amendment was adopted to give the United States District Court for the Western District of Arkansas civil jurisdiction over the five civilized tribes in the Indian Territory.

Mr. Ryan offered an amendment authorizing the President to open negotiations with the Creeks, Seminoles and Cherokees, for the purpose of opening to settlement under the homestead laws unassigned lands in the Indian Territory, ceded by them to the United States [these are Oklahoma lands]. Adopted.

Mr. Ellis, in moving that the committee rise, said in the course of debate on the bill he had been betrayed by an informality of temper into an expression of language which he greatly regretted. He withdrew that language and made his acknowledgment to the House. Mr. Ellis had reference to the controversy yesterday between himself and Holman, and that gentleman said the apology was satisfactory to him, and he withdrew any improper remarks he might have made.

The committee then rose and reported the bill to the House.

The previous question was ordered, and the bill passed and the House adjourned.

National Health Board Bill.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—The House Committee on Public Health decided that, by reason of the late stage of the session and the crowded condition of the calendar, it will be impossible to pass at this session the bill to protect public health recently prepared by the delegates from various State Boards of Health. The committee, however,

decided to recommend an appropriation of \$25,000 for the National Board of Health and \$50,000 to be used at the discretion of the President in preventing the spread of cholera should it appear in this country before the next Congress assembles.

THE THERMOMETER.

The Condition of the Weather at Various Points.

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—Early this morning the mercury fell to 17 degrees below zero in this city, according to the report of the Signal Service. In the extreme Northwest, however, the cold has moderated somewhat. Fargo and Jamestown quoting a degree below. The mercury had risen five degrees here at noon to-day.

Rough Weather in the East.

MOUNT WASHINGTON, N. H., Jan. 22.—The thermometer this morning recorded 50 degrees below zero, 1 degree colder than the lowest temperature ever experienced before, which was 49 degrees below, in March, 1872. Probably no rougher weather was ever experienced than at the present moment (9 a. m.). A northwest hurricane has been blowing at the rate of 100 miles an hour for the past twelve hours. Sleep was impossible during the night. The chimney of the Signal Station was blown off, falling the house with gas and smoke. Two men are on the summit—P. J. Cahill and Alphonse Landry.

Oliver Bros. & Phillips' Extension.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 22.—At a meeting of the creditors of Oliver Brothers & Phillips and the Oliver & Roberts Wire Company, limited, to-day, a committee reported in favor of accepting the proposition of the firms, with some slight modifications. Separate notes will be given for the interest, payable semi-annually, and the mortgage creditors will not be asked to sign the extension, but will carry their loans. James D. O'Neill declined to serve as one of the trustees, and James M. Bailey, iron merchant, was selected in his place. This settles the extension, and papers will be signed as soon as prepared.

Internal Revenue Collections.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—The collections of internal revenue in the first six months of the fiscal year were as follows: Spirits, \$34,064,395; tobacco, \$12,732,399; fermented liquors, \$5,570,492; miscellaneous sources, \$151,282; total, \$56,518,568, being \$1,250,786 less than the receipts in the same period last year. The decrease was in collections from spirits, \$2,935,983; from tobacco, \$332,857; from fermented liquors, \$273,184; the only increase was from miscellaneous sources, \$200,238. The aggregate receipts in December, 1884, were \$275,049 less than in the same month of the previous year.

Gang of Railroad Thieves Arrested.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 22.—The recent arrest of three men at Odessa, this State, for robbing freight cars on the Chicago and Alton Railroad, has developed the existence of a gang of men who have been systematically plundering the company's cars. Last night seven other men were arrested and brought into Lexington where they were jailed. It is estimated that this band has stolen nearly \$30,000 worth of goods from the Chicago and Alton cars during the past few months. Other arrests are expected.

Boiler Explosion.

ITHACA, N. Y., Jan. 22.—A portable engine, used in sawing lumber at the farm of Simon Benedict, Groton, N. Y., exploded to-day. Engineer Edwin Phelps and Edward Benedict were instantly killed; Simon Benedict had a leg blown off and skull crushed; his son Byron, who was also with a leg blown off, and is supposed to be fatally injured.

Natural Gas Explosion.

PITTSBURGH, Jan. 22.—An explosion of natural gas near the work house, eight miles from the city, this afternoon, seriously injured five men, who had come down to the ditch to repair a leak in the mains. The explosion was caused by one of the workmen striking a match to light his pipe. No further particulars.

A Wolf in the Flock.

PETERSBURG, Va., Jan. 22.—Rev. George Spencer, colored, of Norfolk, was convicted in the Mayor's Court to-day of petit larceny, and sentenced to thirty days in jail. He was also sent to the Grand Jury to be indicted for house breaking. Spencer preached in the Third Baptist Colored Church last Sunday night to a large congregation.

Corn as Stock Food.

(Lancaster Farmer.)
Corn is so rich in oil that we may say corn bread is ready buttered; it is, however, very digestible, and in cold weather this oiliness is a most valuable factor, as it serves to keep up the heat of the body more directly than starch or any similar substance. With wheat and barley it may form one-third of the grain ration of hard-worked draft horses, and will keep their coats glossy and be in every way a benefit, certainly worth more than its weight in oats. Fed alone or in larger proportion it has a tendency to make horses sweat easily, and it is said to become quickly exhausted. It is not safe to feed it as freely as oats or barley, as there is danger of impaction and—just as there would be if wheat were fed. No doubt it is best fed ground with oats, and the proportions already indicated are probably the most satisfactory, the meal being fed upon cut hay.

For cows in milk, corn meal may form, with bran, the exclusive grain ration, and may be fed at the rate of one plate of corn meal to each 100 pounds of the cow's live weight. No doubt it will be found just as good in Great Britain as here. It gives quality and richness to the milk, color to the butter and abundance to the flow. The cow is a good one, but if she is inclined to lay on fat such feeding will cause her to fatten, even though in full milk, and if she gets too fat she will go dry.

For sheep corn is excellent, but should be fed whole and a little at a time. For swine, the universal experience from Maine to Oregon, and from Canada to Mexico, is that it will make more and better pork than any other food. For poultry it is in the country the universal grain, but it is not always the best. It is admirable for its fattening properties, but for laying hens and growing fowls it is not well to use too much. "Corn-fed" fowls, ducks and geese are firm-fleshed and yet tender. They bear transportation alike with little shrinkage. The yellow corn makes yellow butter and yellow eggs. The white, English and French tastes demand white-fleshed poultry with pale, lardy fat, and so they fatten poultry on rice, and their fancy market fowls have about as much flavor as boiled rice. The America market demands yellow-fleshed fowls, with fat as yellow as June butter, and corn is the food to produce this in all poultry.

Mr. Philip Reichart, Postmaster, New Baden, Robertson County, Texas, writes that Mr. Charles Levine was entirely cured of rheumatism by St. Jacobs Oil, the great pain-cure.

NEW ORLEANS.

Another Letter From the World's Fair.

Croakers—The Splendid Exhibit From Mississippi—Her Corn Beats the World—Other Notes.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 20.—This Southern climate is very much like children when company is present—on her worst behavior. Strangers are here from all parts of the world, expecting to bask in warm sunlight and balmy breezes. They find it cold, damp and dismal. Well, the weather-wise inform us that winter is absolutely at an end, though the two last days have been quite cold and icy. The number of visitors to the exposition is daily increasing, and all go away delighted with the grandeur and beauty of the show. Very likely your readers will think, as I say so much about this World's Fair, that I never saw one before. Well, I never did see one near equal to this, and I see so much to please and interest me that I may be a little over-enthusiast.

Some croakers have been predicting that it would break down for want of money to complete the buildings, and get the materials for exhibition into full display. But the buildings are completed, and almost every department is fully equipped and ready for dress parade except the woman's, and they are determined to have everything in the best possible shape. The show is placed on exhibition. Their department has the material for a brilliant display, and there will be no failure with the ladies. Give them a little time to arrange their ribbons and curls, and they will come out in full dress.

In the Mississippi State exhibit there is some very creditable work from the hands of her lady artists that are attracting most favorable comments. I am pleased to see that my old State of Mississippi is making such a good display of the products of her farms, orchards, vineyards, forests and work shops. In some respects she is ahead of all other States. In wool, cotton, timber, and strange to say, in corn she beats the State of New York. The corn from Washington County, on the Mississippi River, are the largest I have seen in the exposition. Her wool in England is admitted to be the best in the world. Her cotton has taken the medal in two World's Expositions, and it would be difficult to find a better display of the State has made here will greatly advance her interests in attracting immigration into her borders. I am delighted to see Southern people exhibiting so much enterprise and energy in this work. It shows that they still have a chance to prosper in the land that is rapidly bringing her to the front again. If Congress could only be induced to take a high, statesmanlike view of this Mississippi River question and appropriate a certain amount of money to thoroughly rebuild the levee of the Mississippi, the rich lands of its great valleys, it would soon become the garden spot of the world. Don't say "it can't be done," for money, energy, perseverance, industry and skill can accomplish the work beyond any doubt. The Sentinel's attitude on civil service reform strikes me as presenting the true old-fashioned Democratic doctrine of equal rights and fair play. I am in favor of giving any honest, competent, industrious American citizen a chance to rise to the highest success he may aspire to in this country, whether in the direction of business, professional pursuits or official position, and these life-time offices certainly have the effect to limit the opportunities of many as good or better men than those holding the positions. It is all nonsense about requiring a life-time for a man to become acquainted with the duties of a little clerkship, or even a Chief Justice or United States Judge. There are doubtless 1,500 men in the United States well qualified to fill the place that Chief Justice Waite occupies as he is, and quite a number that are decidedly his superiors, still no one else can get there until he dies or resigns, however much some ambitious lawyer may desire the place. I am in favor of civil service reform myself, and have been for twenty years. But my idea of civil service reform is to put the Republicans out as soon as possible, and fill their places with honest, faithful, competent characters. It would be in order to inquire the number of Democrats that have been appointed to office by Republican administrations. Even in selecting physicians for services on Pension Boards, party politics was made a test, and no Democrat need apply. In Vincennes, where Republican doctors were rather scarce, they had to take one who had not been in the practice the requisite number of years, rather than appoint a Democrat who applied for the place. This is the kind of civil service the Republicans practiced. Not a Democrat of any prominence was ever appointed by that party except Judge Jay, of Tennessee, and in him, I am pleased to say, they made a good selection. He is a faithful, efficient, honest official, and voted the Democratic ticket.

Just how many Democrats have been found qualified to fill the official positions under the rules of the existing civil service law, I should like to know. Major Deane may express a wish that Hon. Joseph E. McDonald may be assigned a place in Mr. Cleveland's Cabinet. His high integrity and great ability and wisdom in statesmanship certainly indicate his admirable fitness for such a place.

A. PATTON.

Indian and American Wheat.
(San Francisco Chronicle.)

We are now enabled, from the report of Consul General Leonard, of Calcutta, to form a reliable estimate of the wheat production of British India in 1884. The area under cultivation is said to be 26,000,000 acres and the product 244,000,000 bushels, or 9 1/2 bushels to the acre. The acreage planted to wheat in California this year was about 4,000,000 and the product about 37,000,000 bushels, or 16 1/2 bushels to the acre. The total acreage planted to wheat in the United States is about 40,000,000 and the yield this year was about 510,000,000 bushels—say nearly 13 bushels to the acre. British India has thus considerably over half as many acres in wheat as the United States, and produces nearly one-half as large a crop. Last year the crop of India was reckoned at 200,000,000 bushels.

Notwithstanding the cheapness of labor in India and the fertility of the soil, the calculation of wheat grown in that country is that it costs them to raise wheat and ship it to Delhi, which, like Chicago, is the primary market for Indian wheat, \$1.33 a cental—say 13 cents a pound. This is about what it costs here—-if anything a trifle more. When, as at present, wheat at Delhi will not realize as much as this, the Indian farmer holds back his crop in view of the possibility of a future famine. Delhi is nearly the same distance from Calcutta that Chicago is from New York. The freight from Delhi is 34 cents per cental, against 25 cents, which is the freight from Chicago to New York—a quarter of a cent a pound. Here is another advantage enjoyed by the American producer. It looks as if Mr. Caird was not far wrong when he said that British India could not afford to grow wheat in competition with the Northwest and California any more than

it can afford to compete with the Southwest States in the growth of cotton. It is just about ten years since British India began to ship wheat to England. In 1877-78 it shipped 12,000,000 bushels; in 1880-81 the shipments were 14,000,000 bushels; 1881-82 37,000,000 bushels, and in 1882-83 about 43,000,000 bushels. The great decline in the price of wheat, which began last year, checked the business, and in the first six months of 1884 the shipments were only 11,125,000 bushels, as against 20,513,000 bushels in the corresponding months of 1883. The consumption of India is reckoned 200,000,000 bushels leaving 41,000,000 available for export—nearly one-half England's requirements from abroad. But it is evident that with a prime cost of \$1.33 per cental at Delhi, and freight of thirty-four cents to that point, to the seaboard, India can not compete with Chicago or San Francisco.

Wheat growing in India depends in some parts on the monsoon rains, in others upon irrigation. We know in this State that with irrigation has got to be added to the other costs of growing wheat, the industry will not pay. Under the present unthrifty government of India as a British colony, expenditures are incurred which promise no adequate return. But this can not last forever. It will never pay, as a commercial operation, to keep up a system of irrigation for the purpose of raising wheat to be sold at a cent a pound, which is likely to be the average ruling price hereafter.

Small Dairy Herds.

We often hear of a dairyman, says the Live Stock Journal, who has a single cow that makes \$100 or more worth of butter in a year, and perhaps his near neighbor with thirty cows gets only an average of \$30 to \$50 worth per cow. Yet the latter dairyman is entirely unconcerned about the small outcome of his herd. He goes on, year after year, milking cows that do not pay for the food they eat, much less for the labor of milking and caring for them. He seems to take it as a matter of course. He does not take time to consider the fact that he could dispose of these poor cows and get better ones to put in their place. In fact, he has only one cow, and can take care of her. Just so, and if you would sell off twenty of your poorest cows and take care of the remaining ten, you would get much more profit than you now do from thirty cows. A few weeks since an account was given in a New York issue of a dairyman in Vermont, with six cows on a farm of sixty acres, who makes 330 pounds of butter average per head. He has been improving them for some ten years, starting with an average of only 150 pounds of butter per cow. His income from his six cows is now \$300. He keeps a record of each cow separately, and each is retained on her own merits. He keeps no cow that will not respond to good care and keep and pay a good profit. He does not expect cows to make 320 pounds of butter each without the best of food and plenty of it. These six cows taken chances of drought and scanty food. Their owner takes the duty upon himself to prevent the effects of drought, and to supply full ration under all circumstances. His reward is 330 pounds of butter.

The Sac and Fox Indians have leased 200,000 acres of grazing lands to Kansas parties for ten years at \$1,000 per annum, the wire fencing to revert to the Indians at the expiration of the lease.

All such material as cornstalks and straw should be cut into small pieces before being placed in the barnyard.

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